## PLATE VII: SECTION OF A SIX FOOT TRENCH, YPRES FRONT

The sketch shows the cross-section of trench as built on parts of the West Poperinghe Line. There are also some portions of the Vlamertinghe Line of this section.

What is called an "A" frame is shown resting on the bottom of the trench and generally the trench could only be dug the depth of this frame, or about three feet. There were places where no "A" frame was used, the soil being of such a nature that it would stand by revetting with wire, corrugated iron, brush, sod, expanded metal or other good forms of revetments. However, this was the exception, rather than the rule.

It was necessary therefore to build half of the trench above ground and, as the dug part was narrow and the parapet and parados both wide, much of the fill had to be borrowed. The borrowing was done on both sides of the trench as shown in sketch. In front the pit was cut in the shape of a saw tooth and was designed to stop tanks. The pit in rear of the trench served as a drain. It was dug a little deeper than the trench for this purpose. It was not always possible to drain the trench to the rear and in many instances drains had to be cut through parapet and tank trap. A square box drain or pipe was placed in the bottom of these drains and then the drain ditch filled. In the case of drains to the rear this was not done. The drain ditch was used as an approach, or as a passage to a type C shelter. *See Plate X.*

The following data on task work were compiled from the work done on this type of trench for the purpose of allotting tasks to working parties:

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| TASK No. 1 | |
| Digging trench, 3 ft. deep, 3 ft. wide at top, 2 ft. wide at bottom | 4 yds. per day |
| TASK No. 2 | |
| "A" Framing with Panels and duckboarding | 2 yds. per man per day |
| TASK No. 3 | |
| Revetting parapet or parados including properly anchoring all pickets | 2 yds. per man per day |
| TASK No. 4 | |
| Banking parapet including sandbagging over revetting panel to height of 4′ 6″ above ground level | 1 yd. per man, 3 days (includes shoveling) |
| TASK No. 5 | |
| Banking parados to height of 3′ 6″ above ground level (6″ above revetting panel) | 2 yds. per man per 3 days |
| TASK No. 6 | |
| Banking C. T. without revetment | 3 yds. per 5 men in one day |
| TASK No. 7 | |
| Wiring double apron fence | 1,000 yds. per day per company 100 men |

Any other task which requires earthing or digging can be calculated by the arithmetic paper already issued on a basis of 90 cubic feet per day per man, care being taken when the throw is likely to be excessive to allot the necessary shoveler to the digger.